CAPSULE SUMMARY
PG: 71A-051
Weldon-Thomas House
7510 High Bridge Road
Bowie, Prince George's County, Maryland
c. 1908
Private

The Weldon-Thomas House at 7510 High Bridge Road in Bowie, Maryland, is located on property originally owned by Joshua T. Clarke, Jr., the owner of several farms in the vicinity of Bowie. The property was owned from 1893 to 1908 by Clay D. Perkins and was then conveyed to John Weldon, an African-American carpenter. This wood-frame dwelling was likely constructed by Weldon following his purchase of the property and the L-shaped dwelling is a good example of the many vernacular houses built in Prince George's County at the beginning of the twentieth century. The property is in the vicinity of Fletchertown, the late-nineteenth-century rural African-American community, which is located on Old Fletchertown Road north of the property. Charles H. and Nellie H. Thomas purchased the property from Weldon in 1923 and owned the property until 1969, when it was passed to their daughters, Mary E. Thomas and Clara V. Thomas. Mary E. Thomas sold the property in 2001, bringing an end to 78 years of Thomas family ownership. Crossway Development Associates, LLC, owner of the property since 2005, has subdivided and platted the property as "West Woods." Although the dwelling has a small side addition, has been reclad with synthetic siding, and has replacement vinyl-sash windows, the Weldon-Thomas House retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an early-twentieth-century vernacular house with an L-shaped plan constructed in the northeastern suburbs of Prince George's County.

Constructed circa 1908, this two-story, three-bay vernacular single-family dwellings reflects the I-house form and features a two-story ell extending from the northernmost bay of the rear (west) elevation. Three-bays wide and one-bay deep, this wood-frame dwelling is clad with German vinyl siding and is set on a solid random rubble foundation. The dwelling is capped by a side-gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. A central-interior brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof and features brick corbeling. The central bay of the façade (east elevation) contains a single-leaf wood door with a single panel. The end bays of the first and second story openings of the façade hold 1/1 vinyl-sash windows. A one-story, three-bay porch extends from the façade and is set on a concrete pier foundation with wood lattice infill. The half-hipped roof of the porch is covered with corrugated metal and is supported by turned wood posts embellished with sawn wood brackets. Square wood balusters encircle the porch, which is accessed by wood steps through the central bay.

Inventory No. PG: 71A-051

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

historic	Weldon-Thomas	House									
other	Weldon Thomas	Trouse									
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street and number		e Road						2-3	not for pu	DilCation	
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3. Owner of	Property	(give nam	es and mailing	g addresses	of all	owners)					
name	Crossway Devel	opment Asso	ciation, LLC.								
street and number	C/O Suite 102, 1	300 Caraway	Court				telephone				
city, town	Largo			state	MD		zip code	20	774		
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7. Description

Inventory No. PG: 71A-Q51

Condition

_	excellent ·	deteriorated
X	good	ruins
	_fair _	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Weldon-Thomas House is located at 7510 High Bridge Road in Bowie, Maryland. The property is flanked by Old Fletchertown Road to the north and by Fletchertown Road to the south. The property includes a single-family dwelling, which is sited on a slight rise. The property slopes to the south and features mature trees, shrubs, as well as foundation plantings. A gravel and dirt driveway leads from High Bridge Road and travels westward past the south (side) elevation of the primary dwelling before terminating at the garage, which is located near the southwest corner of the property. A metal chain-link fence forms the southern and eastern boundaries of the property, running parallel with Fletchertown and High Bridge Roads. In addition to the primary dwelling, this property includes a shed, a garage, and a prefabricated shed.

DWELLING

Constructed circa 1908, this two-story, three-bay vernacular single-family dwellings reflects the I-house form and features a two-story ell extending from the northernmost bay of the rear (west) elevation. Three-bays wide and one-bay deep, this wood-frame dwelling is clad with German vinyl siding and is set on a solid random rubble foundation. The foundation has been painted white. The dwelling is capped by a side-gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. Overhanging eaves finish the roof. A central-interior brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof and features brick corbeling.

The central bay of the façade (east elevation) contains a single-leaf wood door with a single panel. The end bays of the first and second story openings of the façade hold 1/1 vinyl-sash windows. Vinyl-clad square-edge surrounds complete each window opening. A one-story, three-bay porch extends from the façade and is set on a concrete pier foundation with wood lattice infill. The half-hipped roof of the porch is covered with corrugated metal and is supported by turned wood posts embellished with sawn wood brackets. Square wood balusters encircle the porch, which is accessed by wood steps through the central bay.

The foundation of the south (side) elevation is marked by a two-light wood awning window and is complemented by a sill. Double-leaf metal storm doors extend from the south elevation and provide exterior access to the basement of the dwelling. A single opening pierces the first and second stories of the south elevation and each contains a 1/1 vinyl-sash window. Vinyl-clad, square-edge surrounds surround each opening. A single-light vinyl awning window is sited in the upper gable end. The north (side) elevation is fenestrated with a single 1/1 vinyl-sash on both the first and second stories. Each opening is finished with a vinyl-clad, square-edge surround.

A two-story ell extends from the northernmost bay of the rear (west) elevation and is original. The ell has the material treatment of the main block and is capped by a front-gabled roof of standing-seam metal. A circular ventilator pierces the ridge of the roof and is sited at the western end of the roof. The second story of the south elevation is marked by two openings. Each opening contains a 1/1 vinyl-sash window with a vinyl-clad, square-edged surround. The first story of the rear elevation is pierced by double-leaf French metal doors. Two wooden steps with wood handrails provide access to the entry. Two narrow openings fenestrate the upper gable of the

Inventory No. PG: 71A-051

Weldon-Thomas House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

west elevation and each holds a single-light vinyl casement window. The north elevation is also fenestrated with 1/1 vinyl-sash windows and have vinyl-clad, square-edged surrounds.

A one-story addition (possibly an enclosed porch) is located in the elbow of the main block and ell and was constructed circa 1915. The addition is one-bay wide and two-bays deep. Set on a solid random rubble foundation, this addition is clad with German vinyl siding. The half-hipped roof, featuring overhanging eaves, is covered with standing-seam metal. A single-leaf paneled wood door and paired single-light vinyl sliding windows mark the south elevation of the addition. A wood deck extends from the south elevation of the addition and is set on a wood post foundation with wood lattice infill. Square wood balusters surround the porch.

SHED

A one-story, one-bay shed is located southwest of the primary dwelling and is directly south of the gravel and dirt driveway. The shed is believed to have been erected circa 1908 based on its construction materials. The wood-frame shed is clad with German wood siding and is accented with wood corner boards. Asphalt shingles cover the front-gable roof, which is finished with overhanging eaves. A single-leaf opening marks the façade (north elevation) and contains a batten wood door. There is no additional fenestration.

GARAGE

A one-story, one-bay garage is located southwest of the dwelling and is at the end of the gravel and dirt driveway. The garage is believed to have been erected c. 1950 based on its construction materials. The garage is constructed of concrete blocks, faced with plywood, and is set on a solid concrete slab. A front-gable roof caps the garage and is covered with corrugated metal. Overhanging eaves finish the roof. A roll-up, paneled wood door with lights provides access on the façade (east elevation) to the interior of the building. There is no additional fenestration.

PREFABRICATED SHED

A one-story, one-bay prefabricated shed is located north of the garage and is west of the primary dwelling. Constructed c. 1990, the shed is clad with metal sheets which imitate board-and batten siding. The front-gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. Double-leaf metal doors, accessed via a wood ramp, fenestrate the façade (east elevation) of the shed.

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Weldon-Thomas House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

INTEGRITY

The dwelling at 7510 High Bridge Road presents a moderate level of integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. This vernacular building retains its original I-house form with a rear ell, however, the integrity of materials and workmanship has been affected but not compromised by the use of non-historic German vinyl siding as cladding material and replacement vinyl-sash windows. This is a common, and reversible, midtwentieth-century alteration. Sited on a 0.515-acre parcel in Bowie, Maryland, this dwelling retains its integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The Weldon-Thomas House retains its integrity of location, situated at the intersection of High Bridge Road and Fletchertown Road.

The one-story shed presents a high level of integrity. The building retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, feeling, and association.

The garage retains a high level of integrity. The building has retained integrity of materials, workmanship, and design, despite the use of plywood. It retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

Due to its recent construction date, the c. 1990 prefabricated shed is a non-contributing resource.

Overall, the Weldon-Thomas House, and its associated resources, maintain a moderate level of integrity.

8. Significance				Inventory No. PG: /1A-Q51
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architect law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government ure religion science social history transportation X other: Local History
Specific dates	c. 1908		Architect/Builder Jo	ohn Weldon
Construction da	ates c. 1908, c. 1915			
Evaluation for:				
-	National Register		Maryland Register	not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weldon-Thomas House at 7510 High Bridge Road in Bowie, Maryland, is located on property originally owned by Joshua T. Clarke, Jr., the owner of several farms in the vicinity of Bowie. The property was owned from 1893 to 1908 by Clay D. Perkins and was then conveyed to John Weldon, an African-American carpenter. This wood-frame dwelling was likely constructed by Weldon following his purchase of the property and the L-shaped dwelling is a good example of the many vernacular houses built in Prince George's County at the beginning of the twentieth century. The property is in the vicinity of Fletchertown, the late-nineteenth-century rural African-American community, which is located on Old Fletchertown Road north of the property. Charles H. and Nellie H. Thomas purchased the property from Weldon in 1923 and owned the property until 1969, when it was passed to their daughters, Mary E. Thomas and Clara V. Thomas. Mary E. Thomas sold the property in 2001, bringing an end to 78 years of Thomas family ownership. Crossway Development Associates, LLC, owner of the property since 2005, has subdivided and platted the property as "West Woods." Although the dwelling has a small side addition, has been reclad with synthetic siding, and has replacement vinyl-sash windows, the Weldon-Thomas House retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an early-twentieth-century vernacular house with an L-shaped plan constructed in the northeastern suburbs of Prince George's County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Weldon-Thomas House is located approximately one mile south of Bowie, Maryland. Bowie, or Huntington City as it was originally known, was a railroad town platted in 1870. The town was located at the junction of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad and its spur line that went to Washington, D.C. The railway was started in 1908 and ran from the eastern corner of Washington, D.C., through Prince George's County and into Anne Arundel County where the line split to provide access northward to Baltimore and eastward to Annapolis. Twelve miles of this high-speed electric line ran through Prince George's County. The Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway opened on February 7,

Weldon-Thomas House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

1908, between Washington, D.C., and Annapolis. Service to Baltimore began on March 25, 1908. Railroad service reached its peak during World War I when Camp George G. Meade was opened in Odenton, Maryland.

The property is associated with Fletchertown, the late-nineteenth-century rural African-American community located south of Huntington and northwest of Bowie. The historic community of Fletchertown is centered on Old Fletchertown Road. Gabriel Fletcher was born circa 1857 in Maryland. The 1880 Census lists Fletcher as a single 23-year-old mulatto living with his mother and siblings in Queen Anne, Prince George's County. His occupation is listed as laborer. By 1900, the census notes Fletcher living in Bowie with his wife of 14 years, Virginia, and their five children. He is listed as owning his home and his occupation is listed as farmer. After Gabriel and his wife purchased their land near Bowie, members of the extended Fletcher family, including Gabriel's mother and brother, moved to the area. The majority of their neighbors either farmed or worked for the railroad. By 1910, the census notes that the small community was known as "Fletchertown."

Prior to 1892, the property was owned by Joshua T. Clarke, Jr., the son of Joshua T. Clarke, Sr., a farmer and storekeeper. Clarke, Sr. resided at "Clarke's Fancy" (PG: 71A-05) and owned several farms in the vicinity of Collington, Prince George's County. Like many other Prince George's County farmers in the 1880s, he became heavily indebted to creditors and was forced to sell three of his farms. The properties were purchased by his son, Clarke Jr., who at this time was operating a store in Collington.⁷

In 1892, Joshua T. Clarke, Jr., found himself in arrears for state and county taxes for an 11-acre tract of land known as "Cedar Hill," and "Part of Cedar Hill." The tract had once been part of the "Cedar Hill" property (PG: 71A-08), the homestead to the Weems and Bowie families of Prince George's County. As a result, in 1893, James T. Perkins, Treasurer of Prince George's County, sold the property to Clay D. Perkins. Clay D. Perkins, born in 1861, was married to Ada Perkins. The couple had four children: Susan E., Clay D. Jr., Louise T., and Ida. At the time of the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Perkins was documented as a farmer, an occupation passed down from his father, James T. Perkins.

In July of 1908, the 8.24-acre property was conveyed by members of the Beall and Perkins family to John Weldon. ¹⁰ John Weldon, an African American, was born 1856 and was married to Araminta Weldon. At the time of the 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Weldon was documented as a laborer living in Queen Ann, but by 1900 had re-located to Bowie. ¹¹ Weldon is listed in the 1900 U.S. Federal Census as a farmer renting a house and was neighbors with many members of the Fletcher family. ¹² In 1910, Weldon was employed as a house carpenter and it is likely that he constructed the single-family dwelling at 7510 High Bridge Road during this time. ¹³ John and Araminta Weldon had at least twelve children. ¹⁴

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Weldon-Thomas House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

In 1923, the Weldons conveyed 8.24 acres to Charles H. and Nellie H. Thomas. ¹⁵ Charles Thomas was born in 1878 to German immigrants. At the time of the 1930 U.S. Federal Census Thomas was employed as an electrician for the railroad. Nellie Thomas, born in 1886, had no occupation. ¹⁶ The Weldon-Thomas House was likely being rented during this period. Following the death of Nellie H. Thomas in September 1969, the property was bequeathed to the couple's daughters, Mary E. and Clara V. Thomas. ¹⁷

In 2001, the property was sold by Mary E. Thomas, having survived her sister Clara, to Eric R. and Shelly R. West. ¹⁸ Information related to the Wests could not be located. In October 2005, the Wests conveyed the 4.83728 acres to the current owners, Crossway Development Associates, LLC. ¹⁹

In May 2006, Crossway Development Associates subdivided approximately 1.77 acres of the property located between Old Fletchertown Road and Fletchertown Road into three lots. In December of the same year, Crossway Development Associates subdivided their property once again, dedicating Lot 4 northwest of the intersection of High Bridge Road and Old Fletchertown Road. In 2008, Lot 3 and part of Lot 4 were re-subdivided to form Lots 5 and 6. Shortly thereafter, Lot 1 was sold to NDI of Maryland. NDI constructed a large single-family dwelling with an address of 13201 Old Fletchertown Road. Currently, the Weldon-Thomas House is associated on Lot 6. Crossway Development Associates still own Lots 2, 4, and 5, which are unimproved.

¹ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* (1992), B-22.

² Susan G. Pearl, "Concrete Railroad Bridge," (PG: 71A-006) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1985), 8:1.

³ Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Planning Department, "The Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway," *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County* (1991), 46.

⁴ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Maryland, Prince George's County, Queen Anne, District 127, p. 153, line 28, Gabriel Fletcher.

⁵ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Maryland, Prince George's County, Bowie, District 106, sheet 5, line 86, Gabriel Fletcher.

⁶ 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Maryland, Prince George's County, Bowie, District 76, sheet 11.

⁷ Susan G. Pearl, "Feagens-Schneider House and Store, Joshua T. Clarke Store," PG: 71A-17, Maryland Historical Trust, Historic Sites Inventory Form (1985).

⁸ James T. Perkins to Clay D. Perkins, Prince George's County Land Records, JWB 24:567.

⁹ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince George, Maryland, Series T623, Roll 626, Page 8A, Enumeration District 106, Clay D. Perkins

¹⁰ Fillmore Beall, Edward E. Perkins, Grace C. Perkins, Libbie T.P. Beall, Fillmore Beall, Ada Perkins, and Clay D. Perkins to John Weldon, Prince George's County Land Records, 49:135.

¹¹ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Queen Ann, Prince George's, Maryland, Series 513, Family History Film 1254513, Page 165B, Enumeration District 127, Image 0332, John Weldon.

¹² 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince George's, Maryland, Roll T623, Series 626, Page 4A, Enumeration District 106, John Weldon.

^{13 1910} U.S. Federal Census, Bowie, Prince George's, Maryland, Series T624, Roll 567, Page 11A, Enumeration District 0076,

Inventory No. PG: 71A-Q51

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Image 600, FHL Number 1374580, John Weldon.

¹⁷ Nellie H. Thomas to Mary E. Thomas and Clara V. Thomas, Prince George's County Wills, September 27, 1969.

¹⁴ Weldon children: Hilleary, John, and Mary Louise are documented on the 1880 census; Louise, Walter, Anna, William, Philip, Daniel, Truman, Fanny, and Florence are documented on the 1900 census; William, Frances, Florence, and Pauline are documented on the 1910 census.

John Weldon and Araminta Weldon to Charles H. Thomas and Nellie H. Thomas, Prince George's County Land Records, 198:367.
 1930 U.S. Federal Census, 1930; Census Place: Bowie, Prince George's, Maryland, Roll 878, Page 2A, Enumeration District 30, Image 89.0, Charles H. Thomas.

¹⁸ Mary E. Thomas, Surviving Joint Tenant of Clara V. Thomas to Eric R. West and Shelly R. West, Prince George's County Land Records, REP 15559:338.

¹⁹ Eric R. West and Shelly R. West to Crossway Development Associates, LLC, Prince George's County Land Records, REP 23664:321.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 71A-051

1880, 1900, 1910, 1930 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. http://www.ancestry.com.

Hopkins, G.M. Prince George's County, from Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1861.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.

Pearl, Susan G. "Feagens-Schneider House and Store, Joshua T. Clarke Store," (PG: 71A-17), Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1985.

Prince George's County Land Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _	0.515		
Acreage of historical setting	11		
Quadrangle name	Lanham	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Weldon-Thomas House is located on a 0.515-acre parcel. High Bridge Road forms the eastern boundary of the property. The southern boundary follows Fletchertown Road, which travels east-west. The western boundary follows a line of trees and brush. Old Fletchertown Road is located to the north of the dwelling and travels through the northern portion of the property, which is also bounded by a line of trees. The Weldon-Thomas House has been associated Lot 6 as noted on Tax Map 37 since the subdivision of Lot 3 and part of Lot 4 of "West Woods" in 2008.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar and Maria Dayton/Architectural Historians			
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for M-NCPPC	date	September 2011	
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	(202) 393-1199	
city or town	Washington	state	DC	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

Inventory No. PG: 71A-051

Weldon-Thomas House Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

CHAIN OF TITLE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

May 23, 1892

Joshua T. Clarke, Jr.: State and County taxes in arrears for 1888 and 1889 for a tract of

land known as "Cedar Hill, containing 11 acres more or less

Deed

James T. Perkins, Treasurer of Prince George's County, to Clay D. Perkins

JWB 24:567 May 9, 1893

Deed 49:135 July 31, 1908 Fillmore Beall and Edward E. Perkins, Trustees under decree in Equity Case No. 2655., Edward E. and Grace C. Perkins, his wife, Libbie T.P. Beall and Fillmore Beall, her husband, and Ada Perkins and Clay D. Perkins, her husband, to John Weldon

Deed 198:367 May 26, 1923 John Weldon and Araminta Weldon to Charles H. Thomas and Nellie H. Thomas (8.24 acres)

Will

Nellie H. Thomas to Mary E. Thomas and Clara V. Thomas.

Admin No. 20031 September 27, 1969

Deed REP 15559:338 December 5, 2001 Mary E. Thomas, Surviving Joint Tenant of Clara V. Thomas to Eric R. West and Shelly R. West (Parcels One, Two, and Three containing 4.83728 acres)

Deed REP 23664:321

Eric R. West and Shelly R. West to Crossway Development Associates, LLC

October 5, 2005

Plat of "West Woods" Lots 1-3

Plat REP 202:96 May 23, 2006

Plat

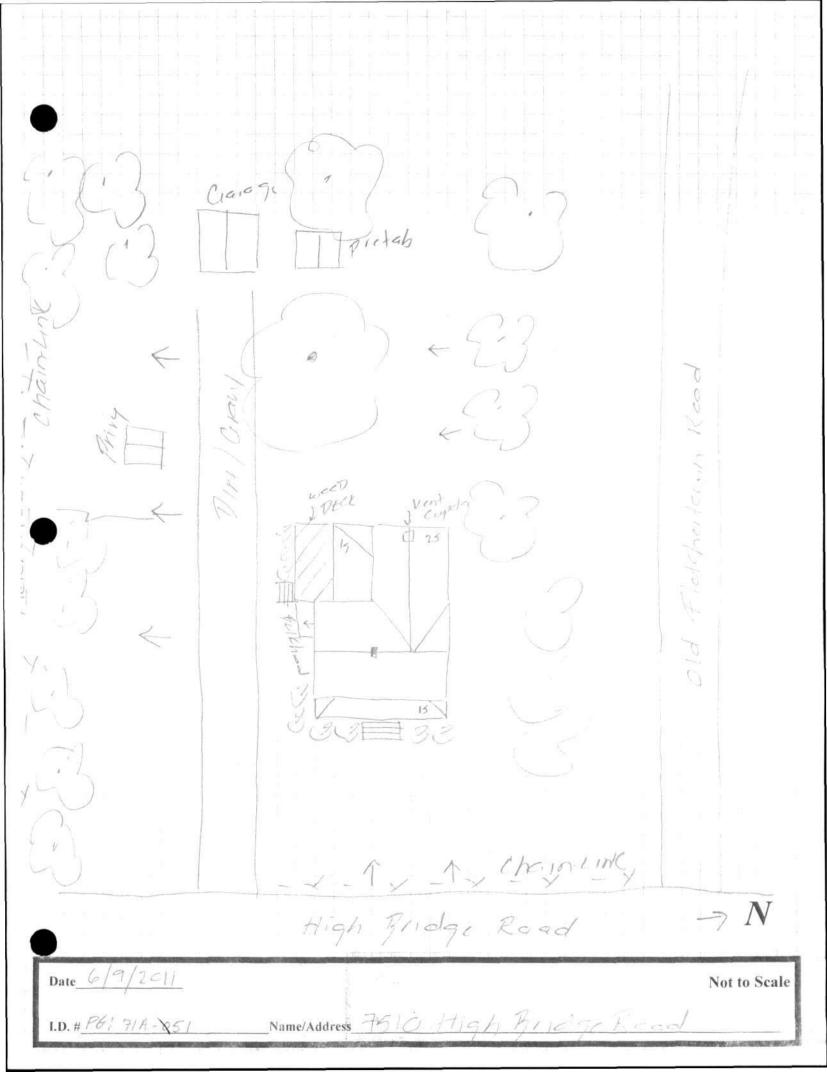
Plat of "West Woods" Lot 4

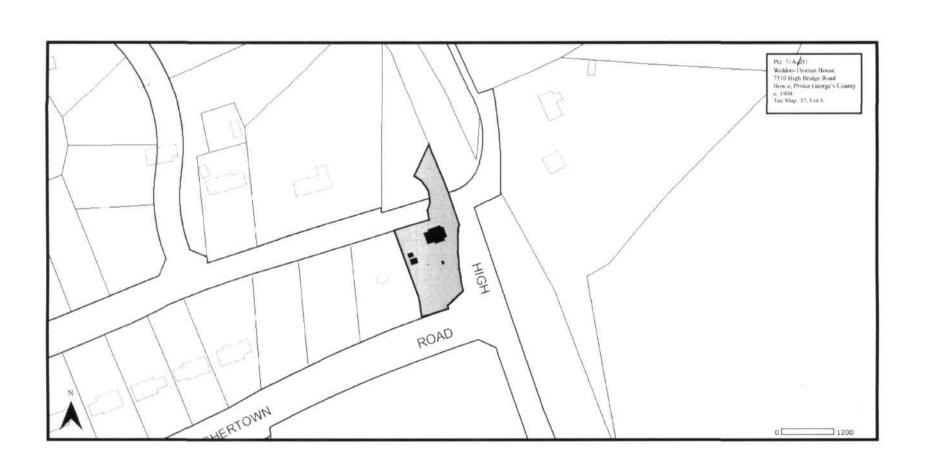
PM 216:77

December 11, 2006

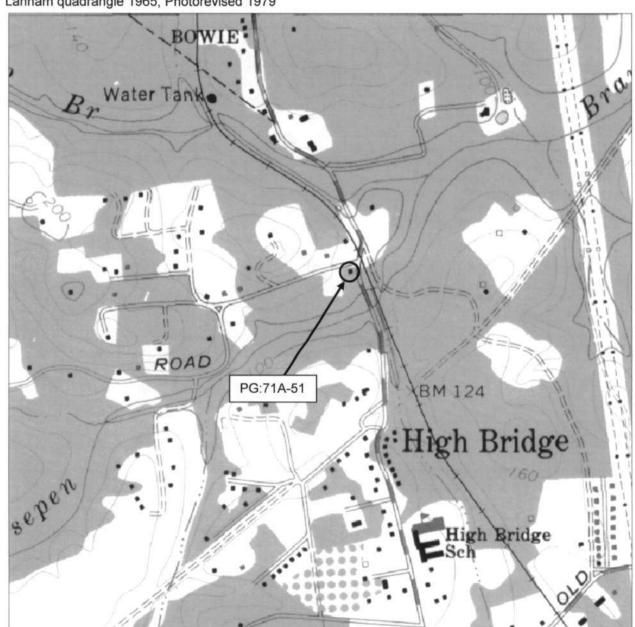
Plat Subdivision of Lot 3 and part of Lot 4 of "West Woods"

PM 225:95 March 13, 2008





PG:71A-51 Weldon-Thomas House 7510 High Bridge Road, Bowie Lanham quadrangle 1965, Photorevised 1979



Task Order 9/ RFP29-165 Prince George's County, Maryland Digital Images Photo Log PG: 71A-051 Weldon-Thomas House

Photographer: EHT Traceries

Date: August 2011

1.	PG;71A-051_2011-08-01_01.tif	Façade, looking NW
2.	PG;71A-051_2011-08-01_02.tif	Rear, looking E
3.	PG;71A-051_2011-08-01_03.tif	Shed, looking SW
4.	PG;71A-051_2011-08-01_04.tif	Garage, looking W
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Prince George's County, Maryland
Traceries
August 2011
MD SAPO
DWelling, Rear Elevation, View locking NE
214



PG: 71A-051
Weldon-Thomas House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Traceries
August 2011
MD SHPD
Shed, View looking SW



Weldon-Thomas House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Traceries
August 2011
MD SHPO
Garage, Shed, View looking West

PG: 71A-051